

ShelterBox chosen as charity partner

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ShelterBox will be the Met Office's charity partner for the next three years. The charity rapidly delivers 'aid in a box' to families affected by disasters across the world.

ShelterBox will be able to tap into the Met Office's global forecasting capability with access to forecasts of where the next call for help may come from. The Met Office can also provide weather information for the ShelterBox response teams on the ground, in disaster areas.

Met Office staff will raise funds to buy the green ShelterBoxes. Each box costs £490 (including distribution) and contains a tent, a cooker, a means of water purification, blankets, tools and utensils. There are even colouring packs for children who will have lost most, or even all, of their possessions.

Other opportunities for the two organisations to work together include training days, conferences and education projects.

In a recent speech at the Met Office, ShelterBox Chief Executive Tom Henderson said: "We are delighted that ShelterBox will be the Met Office's charity partner for the next three years.

"Many of the disasters across the world are weather-related, making the charity an ideal fit with the Met Office — one of the world's leading providers of weather and climate services. All of us at ShelterBox are hugely excited by this partnership and are looking forward to a long, fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership."

John Hirst, the Met Office's Chief Executive, added: "ShelterBox is a really great charity that does fantastic work in disaster-stricken areas. At the Met Office we can play our part by providing science advice, including the forecasting of hurricanes and typhoons around the world every year. ShelterBox provides practical help for victims on the ground and I'm delighted we are going to be working together in the future."

The Met Office already provides forecasts to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to help UK citizens at risk from severe weather overseas. It is also talking to other humanitarian relief and international development charities to identify how climate science and severe weather expertise might be deployed to support future operations.

Shelterbox